CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method for managing time-based media data, comprising:

storing first media data, of a first media data type, in a data file from a first time range of media data originating from a source;

storing second media data, of the first media data type, in a data file from a second time range of the media data originating from the source;

wherein at least a portion of the first time range and a portion of the second time range overlap; and

maintaining information relating the first media data and the second media data.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the information relating the first media data and the second media data includes information identifying the source, the first time range and the second time range.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting, using the maintained information, one of the first media data and the second media data to access media data corresponding to a given time range in the media data originating from the source.

4. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first media data has a first quality and the second media data has a second quality different from the first quality.

5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first media data is stored in a first media data file and the second media data is stored in a second media data file.

6. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for managing time-based media data, comprising:

storing first media data, of a first media data type, in a data file from a first time range of media data originating from a source;

storing second media data, of the first media data type, in a data file from a second time range of the media data originating from the source;

wherein at least a portion of the first time range and a portion of the second time range overlap; and

maintaining information relating the first media data and the second media data.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the information relating the first media data and the second media data includes information identifying the source, the first time range and the second time range.

8. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the process performed by the processed instructions further comprises:

selecting, using the maintained information, one of the first media data and the second media data to access media data corresponding to a given time range in the media data originating from the source.

9. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the first media data has a first quality and the second media data has a second quality different from the first quality.

10. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the first media data is stored in a first media data file and the second media data is stored in a second media data file.

11. A computer-implemented method for processing time-based media data stored in a plurality of media data files, the method comprising:

receiving an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip; and

identifying, for each clip using the information included in the clip, a media data file including media data from the time range of the time-based media data referenced by the clip; and

accessing the identified media data file.

12. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein the information referencing the time-based media data is an identifier of a source medium and wherein the time range in the time-based media data is a time range in the source medium.

13. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the identified media data file to read the referenced time range of the referenced time-based media data.

14. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the media data file to read information about the time-based media data.

15. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the media data file to read information about a source medium from which the time-based media data originates.

16. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, wherein there is a plurality of media data files storing time-based media data originating from a source medium, and wherein identifying a media data file comprises selecting one of the plurality of media data files according to media specific information.

17. The computer-implemented method of claim 16, wherein the media specific information is information indicative of the quality of the media data in each of the plurality of media data files.

18. The computer-implemented method of claim 11, further comprising:

linking the identified media data file to the clip.

19. The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising:

if the identified media data file becomes unavailable, automatically relinking a media data file to the clip.

20. The computer-implemented method of claim 19, wherein the media data file is moved, and wherein automatically relinking comprises automatically relinking the moved media data file to the clip.

21. The computer-implemented method of claim 19, wherein the media data file is replaced by a media data file with media data recaptured from the source medium, and wherein automatically relinking comprises automatically relinking the recaptured media data file to the clip.

22. The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising:

identifying, for a clip using the information included in the clip, another media data file including media data from the time range of the time-based media data referenced by the clip; and

relinking the other media data file to the clip.

23. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for processing time-based media data stored in a plurality of media data files, the method comprising:

receiving an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip; and

identifying, for each clip using the information included in the clip, a media data file including media data from the time range of the time-based media data referenced by the clip; and

accessing the identified media data file.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the information referencing the time-based media data is an identifier of a source medium and wherein the time range in the time-based media data is a time range in the source medium.

25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the identified media data file to read the referenced time range of the referenced time-based media data.

26. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the media data file to read information about the time-based media data.

27. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein accessing the identified media data file comprises accessing the media data file to read information about a source medium from which the time-based media data originates.

28. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein there is a plurality of media data files storing time-based media data originating from a source medium, and wherein identifying a media data file comprises selecting one of the plurality of media data files according to media specific information.

29. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the media specific information is information indicative of the quality of the media data in each of the plurality of media data files.

30. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the process further comprises:

linking the identified media data file to the clip.

31. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the process further comprises:

if the identified media data file becomes unavailable, automatically relinking a media data file to the clip.

32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the media data file is moved, and wherein automatically relinking comprises automatically relinking the moved media data file to the clip.

33. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the media data file is replaced by a media data file with media data recaptured from the source medium, and wherein automatically relinking comprises automatically relinking the recaptured media data file to the clip.

34. The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the process further comprises:

identifying, for a clip using the information included in the clip, another media data file including media data from the time range of the time-based media data referenced by the clip; and

relinking the other media data file to the clip.

35. A computer-implemented method for accessing information about equivalent time-based media data, comprising:

receiving a request including information identifying a time range in time-based media data;

accessing relationship information that associates time-based media data to identify equivalent time-based media data using the information identifying the time range in the time-based media data; and

returning information identifying the equivalent time-based media data and a time range in the equivalent time-based media data.

36. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for accessing information about equivalent time-based media data, comprising:

receiving a request including information identifying a time range in time-based media data;

accessing relationship information that associates time-based media data to identify equivalent time-based media data using the information identifying the time range in the time-based media data; and

returning information identifying the equivalent time-based media data and a time range in the equivalent time-based media data.

37. A method for creating a video program, comprising:

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein is clip is linked to a data file that stores the referenced time-based media data of a first quality; and

relinking each clip to a different media data file that stores media data of a second quality different from the first quality using the information included in the clip.

38. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for creating a video program, comprising:

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein is clip is linked to a data file that stores the referenced time-based media data of a first quality; and

relinking each clip to a different media data file that stores media data of a second quality different from the first quality using the information included in the clip.

39. A computer-implemented method for processing time-based media data, comprising:

storing, in a data file, first media data of a first quality from a first time range of time-based media data of a first media data type;

storing, in a data file, second media data of a second quality from a second time range of the time-based media data of the first media data type, wherein the first time range and the second time range overlap, and wherein the second quality is different from the first quality; and

maintaining information relating the first media data and the second media data.

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing the time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein is clip is linked to a data file that stores the first media data; and

relinking each clip to a data file that stores the second media data using the information included in the clip.

40. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for processing time-based media data, comprising:

storing, in a data file, first media data of a first quality from a first time range of time-based media data of a first media data type;

storing, in a data file, second media data of a second quality from a second time range of the time-based media data of the first media data type, wherein the first time range and the second time range overlap, and wherein the second quality is different from the first quality; and

maintaining information relating the first media data and the second media data.

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing the time-based media data and a time range in the time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein is clip is linked to a data file that stores the first media data; and

relinking each clip to a data file that stores the second media data using the information included in the clip.

41. A computer-implemented method for processing time-based media data, comprising:

storing time-based media data in one or more data files;

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the referenced time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein each clip is linked to one of the one more data files that stores the referenced time-based media data; and

in response to movement of the data file referenced by one of the clips, automatically relinking the clip to the moved data file that stores the time-based media data using the information included in the clip.

42. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

computer program instructions stored in the computer readable medium that, when processed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process for processing time-based media data, comprising:

storing time-based media data in one or more data files;

creating an edited sequence of clips defining a media program, wherein each clip includes information referencing time-based media data and a time range in the referenced time-based media data to be used by the clip and wherein each clip is linked to one of the one more data files that stores the referenced time-based media data; and

in response to movement of the data file referenced by one of the clips, automatically relinking the clip to the moved data file that stores the time-based media data using the information included in the clip.